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FM USLO PEKING HAKTO 47

DOS Review Completed

TO WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY

25X1

NOVEMBER 13, 1973

HAKTO 47

TO: BRENT SCOWCROFT, THE WHITE HOUSE

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER

REF: TO HAK 119

1. THE PARANOIA DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL IS SICKENING. IT IS DISCOURAGING TO SAY THE LEAST TO HEAR ABOUT SUCH PREOCCUPATION DURING A TRIP OF INTENSIVE AND DELICATE DIPLOMACY. YOU ARE, OF COURSE, RIGHT TO LET ME KNOW ABOUT THE PROBLEM AND FOLLOWING ARE SOME FACTS WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL RESTORE SOME PERSPECTIVE.

2. THROUGHOUT THIS TRIP I HAVE MADE A PARTICULARLY VIGOROUS EFFORT TO HIGHLIGHT THE PRESIDENT'S INVOLVEMENT AND DIRECTION. EVERY TIME I SEE THE PRESS ON THE PLANE OR ON THE GROUND, FOR EXAMPLE, I EMPHASIZE THAT I AM IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT TWO OR THREE TIMES A DAY. I HAVE ALSO BEEN CAREFUL TO INCLUDE REFERENCES TO THE PRESIDENT IN MY ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRESS HAS LARGELY SEEN FIT TO AVOID MENTIONING THESE ASPECTS FOR REASONS WHICH ARE OBVIOUS.

3. MY MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN MAO PROVIDES A GOOD EXAMPLE. I MADE SURE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER THAT WE COULD USE IN THE TEXT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT THE FACT THAT THE CHAIRMAN SENT HIS PERSONAL GREETINGS TO THE PRESIDENT. WITH REGARD TO THE MCCLOSKEY BRIEFING ON THE MEETING, THE CHINESE INSISTED THAT HE READ ONLY THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT. WE, THEREFORE, SAW TO IT THAT THE FIRST QUESTION THAT MCCLOSKEY WAS ASKED AFTER READING THE ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNED WHETHER THE PRESIDENT SENT A MESSAGE TO THE CHAIRMAN; IT IS THUS OUTRAGEOUS TO SAY THAT HIS HAD TO

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

SCOWCROFT, MCFARLANE, SECFL

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PAGE 01

TOR:317/09:08Z

DTG:130840Z NOV 73

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BE DRAGGED OUT OF MCCLOSKEY WHO HAS BEEN FULLY COOPERATING WITH ME IN THE EFFORT TO HIGHLIGHT THE WHITE HOUSE REFERENCES. MCCLOSKEY IN HIS BRIEFING POINTEDLY REFERRED TO THE FACT THAT I HAD COMMUNICATED WITH THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING AND, WHEN ASKED WHETHER THIS WAS BY TELEPHONE OR TELEGRAM, HE SAID IT WAS THE LATTER.

4. WE HAVE SHIFTED AS MANY ANNOUNCEMENTS TO ZIEGLER AS WE COULD TO THE POINT WHERE THE TRAVELING PRESS IS CARPING.

5. PLEASE TALK TO ZIEGLER AND HAIG AND WHOEVER ELSE NEEDS IT, AND POINT OUT THE ABOVE FACTS PLUS THE OUTRAGEOUS NATURE OF THIS SORT OF CONCERN. I HAVE EVERY INTEREST IN HIGHLIGHTING THE PRESIDENT'S ROLE. I HAVE MADE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS IN THE FACE OF A CYNICAL PRESS CORPS. I WILL CONTINUE TO DO MY BEST, BUT I CAN ONLY DO SO IF THERE IS A FEELING OF MUTUAL SUPPORT AND SOME SENSE OF A CONCERN FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST RATHER THAN PARANOID CARPING.

6. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN WHAT I KNOW IS A DIFFICULT TASK. PLEASE SHOW THIS TO HAIG.

7. WAR REGARDS.

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PAGE 02

OF 02

TDR:317/09:08Z

DTG:130840Z NOV 73

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